

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PARKING  
(in the vicinity of high schools)**

**August 29, 2007  
Aldermen Duval,  
Thibault, DeVries**

**8:30 AM  
Aldermanic Chambers  
City Hall (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor)**

Chairman Duval called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Duval and DeVries

Absent: Alderman Thibault

Chairman Duval announced that the purpose of this meeting is continuing discussions relating to parking in the vicinity of high schools.

Chairman Duval stated good morning. I think it's sort of important to restate what our objective is for this Committee just so that everyone understands. I would really appreciate it if it was reported accordingly because I think it's vital that this process that we're about to undertake is viewed as being cooperative and collaborative. It's essential that if we're going to have an end product that is viewed favorably by the community at large, then I think it's up to each of us to make a commitment to the process that we'll try to work together and try to get the facts straight and over the long haul implement a process and a set a procedures that will improve the situation around the schools as best we can. It could ultimately be that perhaps we don't have the answers, and I'm willing to admit that here this morning, as I did at the first meeting. I'm hopeful that by working together we can come up with some plan of action that represents an improvement over the conditions that currently exist. So I want to make that abundantly clear. I do truly appreciate the participation this morning of the designees from the three high schools. Principal Adamakos from Memorial is present this morning. Principal Rist from Central is here this morning and I understand Assistant Principal Puglisi from West High School is with us this morning. I appreciate your participation. I know it's a busy time of year for you as you prepare to open your schools, so I do appreciate your personal investment of time this morning.

It's under the City's jurisdiction to respond to residents' concerns with lack of parking around the three high schools. It has been for years now. The problem has existed and I think it's grown in recent years because of the volume of cars that occupy our City streets during the school year. More students than ever drive vehicles to school, unlike the days when Mr. Rist and Mr. Adamakos went to high school when, if they drove a car, they probably drove one in later years in high school and perhaps carpooled with any number of male and female students. Today it seems that students have greater access to vehicles and more frequently and more routinely use cars to get to and from school. And they do so for a number of reasons. That being said, it's still imperative for the City to take a look at the issues surrounding our City's high schools and to try to respond with some kind of a plan of action. I've no preconceived notions as to what the end product is going to be, and I want to make that abundantly clear as well. I don't think Alderman DeVries does either. I know she and I share some concerns relative to the Wards that we represent because we have high schools in our Wards. But beyond that I don't think there is any preconceived plan in place. We certainly haven't reached any conclusions. In fact, not nearly any conclusions. Brandy Stanley is the City's new Parking Manager and fortunately for us, she is able to share with us her expertise in the area of parking demands and she will play a key part in assisting us throughout the process and working with us to collect information. It's going to be essential in whatever remedies that we come up with. Brandy has worked with me in putting together a Project List and Timeline that I'd like to share with each of you this morning. And if the Clerk can pass that out to those in attendance this morning, I'd appreciate it. The Project List and Timeline is just a beginning. It sort of establishes the framework for us to get the job done and how to approach this. As you can tell, this is going to be a very lengthy and thorough process. I want it to be process of inclusion and as you can tell, I think the Project List and Timeline will give ample opportunity for any number of people to become engaged in the process. This process, as we have set up here, is going to basically take the better part of a year to complete. The parking conditions around the high schools have existed for decades. We're not going to resolve them overnight, and it would be highly irresponsible for anyone to suggest any solutions at this time without getting the facts, and I think it's imperative that we allow the Parking Manager ample opportunity to go through this coordination process, work with the high school principals and other high school staff, including students and parents. It's vital for us to get information and cooperation from the Police Department. I appreciate their representative being here with us this morning to work with us, and we'll need to have their participation and cooperation as well. Take a look at that and I would appreciate comment this morning from anyone in attendance this morning pertaining to this. I'm not looking to critique it so much but if you have any immediate feedback, you're welcome to give comment this morning. If you have any other comments this morning...Again, this is just starting a process and I think it's a good place to

start. Alderman DeVries, before we get started I don't know if there are any comments that you have, but again, this is just a suggested timetable. It can be revised along the way, and more than likely it will be, so this is not etched in granite.

Alderman DeVries stated I do have a couple of comments and though I think you stated it, it needs to be reiterated that I think the solutions for the schools are individual and different. I don't think we're going to find one common solution that is going to solve problems for all three of our high school situations because they are unique. For instance, Memorial High School has considerable parking available. Central and West have next to none. Central certainly is very limited. So, there will be different solutions, if any solutions are found. One of the pieces on your timeline that you just passed out, and I'm just perusing this for the first time...I had a comment that the 10/26/07, rather late in the timeline, is a mapping out of the Transit and I'm kind of hoping we can bump that up on our list of priorities and maybe ask Transit, or School and Transit together, to take a look to see if there are any solutions that are available to us within the transit system that might somehow utilize...whether it's off-site parking that can then be bused to some of the schools. Central, I think, was where we started that discussion, thinking that maybe if we could coordinate a public transportation schedule that somehow we could make it easier for students to get to their final destination without having to park immediately there. So I'm hoping we can get some of that background information sooner, just because that's well into the school year, and if there's a quick fix that's available to us this year we should implement it.

Chairman Duval stated I really want to...I understand what you're saying, and I tend to agree. I just want to stay away from the notion that there is a quick fix to the problem in general. I think that...Brandy, correct me if I'm wrong, the idea was to sort of put that out there as a means to collect information so that we could put it in the mix of possible solutions. Brandy, you might want to come up here and maybe grab a mike, because you can directly respond to this.

Alderman DeVries stated I just wanted to ask also...and I don't know if the three principals with us today have time for the entire meeting, or if they would like to have the privilege of speaking to us earlier in case they have other obligations that really require them to leave before we complete our whole meeting.

Chairman Duval stated the intention was this morning...The meeting is going to be relatively brief because I understand here everyone has demands, so I was planning on having the three principals come up this morning to give some comments before they leave because I do appreciate them being here and I know especially right now they're busy. Alderman DeVries, any questions of Ms. Stanley regarding the timeline? Again, it's very flexible. I don't think it was

intended to be the final draft. It's just to give you an idea of what needs to be covered in order for us to come up with some possible solutions and we're looking to implement any changes, if we come up with any. I want to make sure that we stress that for September of '08. So we have an entire year to get this thing right, and I think that's the way to do it. Principal Rist, I'm sure has been, you know, sort of...His high school has been faced with being the subject of perhaps some quick and hasty decisions regarding parking around Central High School, and the whole idea of this Committee and this process is to get away from that. There's just too many surprises. It's not implemented well, and the end result is poor, quite frankly, and I think that we really should try to stay away from that type of response to any kind of problems that come up. So with that, if the principals would like to come up and share any comments at least or concerns immediately, why don't we do that. I know Principal Adamakos is chomping at the bit, so I'll let him go first.

Ms. Brandy Stanley, Parking Manager, stated Alderman, if I may, I just wanted to just mention that, as I'm sure everyone knows, the Ash Street School is in the process of closing. From now until sometime in October, that parking lot will be available for student parking. However, when the purchase and sale agreement is final, the students will be asked not to park in that parking lot. I don't have a date yet.

Chairman Duval stated I just want to make sure we're clear on that, and Principal Rist can perhaps work with us to get the message out and I think he understands what's going on, but with regard to Central High School, just briefly, and the parking at the Ash Street School. The Ash Street School is no longer owned by the City. It's no longer in our jurisdiction. So I don't want to give the impression that we're consenting to any kind of parking at the Ash Street School. It's not in our jurisdiction. It's not for us to give permission. It's not a City-owned building, just so anybody watching at home, you live in the area of Central High School, students park at Ash Street School, they're parking at their own peril, their own risk and their own pleasure because it's not up to us or the School District to give permission or not. It is being sold.

Principal Arthur Adamakos, Memorial High School, stated good morning, everyone. You have a difficult task before you. We've looked at the situation regarding parking now at Memorial forever, almost, and one of the things that's really changed dramatically over three decades, because you brought up when I was in high school, is the fact now that Manchester is developing its outlying areas, and if you recall back in the '70s or the '60s were all community schools. And the perception was that you could walk to school, and people were closer. But as we develop areas around Crystal Lake and down by Trolley Crossing, and all the other areas that weren't developed 20 years ago, we have large groups of

people now living in those areas where there was no one a long time ago. Plus, the demands on time have changed things. More and more parents have to work. That means the ease of having a student drive to school so they don't have to drive home if they're at an after school activity, especially practices, makes for an added burden. And I do agree with you, Alderman DeVries, where you said that each school has its own share of special issues, because while some people are envious of our parking situation, that just means it's another area of real estate, 40 acres, that we have to monitor. That's always a concern. When I was an assistant principal at West, our jurisdiction ended at the end of the street, and a lot of the students who used to park five blocks over on Conant or up on Notre Dame, they parked at their own risk. They parked wherever, and we never really left the property. Unfortunately for us, I have to take eight people out of the building on a regular basis, where we could use them in study hall supervision or hallway supervision, and actually have them monitoring the lot. So with each thing that helps us, in this case our parking lots, there's also a burden of the supervision aspect of it, so I do applaud the fact that you've recognized that all three schools have different problems with parking. I will not lie to you. If I could eliminate improper dress and parking, which take up most of my day for 180 days, my life would be simple. But sadly enough, we live in a day and age where, if you have a license, you should be entitled to park. And we do have often parents calling us, telling us, 'My kid's been driving around for half an hour and they can't find a place to park so they're not coming to school.' Well, it's not an entitlement program. Just because you have a license doesn't mean you have to drive to school. That's not my responsibility. We have over 300 parking spaces for students, and yet everyone now has a reason to drive to school. One of the toughest things that was brought up in the first meeting that I really want to caution you on is any kind of system that separates individuals. An honor roll system, student of the month system...All of that will require resources to manage, as well as make to sure it's fair implementation, and of course there will be requirements for either health, medical waivers...People will be seeking that on a regular basis. So, they'll find ways to beat the system if you develop a system based on rewards. I just want to caution you on that. We've tried that. It has been unsuccessful. So I just want you to know, you've got your work cut out for you. I can help you as much as I can as far as being a resource for at least dealing with on-site parking and I welcome any input from anybody, if they think they can help us in terms of finding a solution to a growing problem of, 'I've got my license, I've got my car. That means I should be able to drive to school.' Just so you know, the three City high schools, with West diminishing somewhat, we still rank in the top ten largest schools in the State of New Hampshire. So, our populations right now are staying pretty steady, as far as Central and Memorial are concerned. And more and more people want to drive. Just for a reference point, and I'll stop now and turn the mike over to Mr. Rist...It says here, determine how many students actually drive, I can tell you we sold 700 identification stickers last year.

So I'm going to say between 700 and 800 people want to drive to school on a regular basis at Memorial High School, roughly one-third of the population. No place could handle that, no place, except for the mall, I would think. So, that's what forces them to...If they're not parking in the lot, they miss out; they park out in the street or wherever they can park. So, I do have data for you on a number of your items that you've got listed on here, and I'm prepared to supply that to you whenever you want, because statistically we've looked at this ten ways till Tuesday and we're still scratching our heads.

Chairman Duval stated Mr. Adamakos, any information you have, you could turn it over to Brandy Stanley, either now or in the future. And certainly have each other's email address so you can communicate that way as well. Just some closing comments and then we'll move on to Principal Rist.

Alderman DeVries stated thank you, Mr. Chairman, just a couple of quick questions. Arthur, do you have any opinions where high school students have to pay for transportation to school? It's not a new system; that's something that's gone on for a while. You may have some memories of days when they didn't have to pay as much as they pay today. Is that an effective...

Mr. Adamakos asked are you talking about the buses? The amount that they pay for the buses really is irrelevant, to be honest about it. It's the stigmatism of, I have to ride the yellow bus, and the obvious factor of it only going in a certain route. It taking 45 minutes to complete the route, if you live at the end of the route, rather than me just taking a simple drive for ten minutes to get home. The convenience factor outweighs the cost of the bus ticket.

Alderman DeVries stated one other comment, if I would, before Arthur loses his microphone. It's more for my families that have dealt with some of the end of school day issues on South Porter Street. We're trying a new system this year to try to help alleviate some of the congestion on South Porter Street at Memorial High School by really finding a route within the parking lot, the teachers' parking lot, if you would, for the buses to be queued up and staged, which will get them off the street. I don't know if you wanted to comment any more, but I just wanted any residents who may watch this at home to realize we are putting through a trial system this year. We've worked with the schools, as well as the City transit system, to try to come up with this new staging scenario, and I hope it will help, at least for the emergency vehicles that might coincidentally have to travel that road at the same time and get to a homeowner. Do you have any additional comments?

Mr. Adamakos responded sure. Just for the public's awareness and knowledge, what has happened is we've had a proliferation of Special Education buses and the Auburn buses are now numbering three. To take up real estate in front of a school

building that was built in 1960. It was not designed to handle that bus load. I haven't even mentioned the five City bus routes for me yet. So what happens at the end of the day, since they're all waiting for students...Now this is a ten minutes window, if you can imagine it. It clogs up South Porter Street and the surrounding areas for about ten to fifteen minutes. Heaven forbid if we have any emergency services that are required for any of those homes. So, one thing we are working on, and we're pretty much there. We're all set to go except for some signages, some striping issues that I called you about yesterday, Alderman. We're taking our five City buses and aiming them down the faculty parking lot, the curve parking lot, so the students will board the Manchester City bus routes in that area, rather than the buses sticking out on South Porter Street or lining up on South Porter Street, double parked. The Auburn buses still will park in the location that they've always parked in. There's no problem with space there. This should free up a lot of space in front of the school in terms of parent pick up and the Special Education bus situation. So what we're doing is just telling them to go in a different direction. There is a gate at the far end that was just recently installed, as recently as Monday. And we'll be unlocking that gate to let the buses come out, and then we'll lock the gate back up again. Just so people are aware, and this is the final comment, why we actually have a gate there is because of traffic during the day. Students felt that it was appropriate that since they could make a circular loop around...go down Crusader Way, take a left and go up the faculty lot, they were participants in a NASCAR race. So we put that gate down there to prevent people from speeding around in a very quick fashion, and it doesn't take long...you can just stand there and find out how fast some of these people are driving when there's no traffic. So, we'll unlock the gate daily. There's an administrator down there. As a matter of fact, I'm there the first month. I'll be unlocking the gate, letting the City buses come out, and then locking the gate back up. But that is not to prevent people from parking in that lot. That's to prevent people from driving around like it's a racetrack, which was a problem for quite a while. We had teachers and students in peril because they were driving so fast, and it slowed down traffic, the speed of traffic, immeasurably.

Alderman DeVries stated one final comment on a different subject matter. I think it might be helpful to Brandy if she's able to work with the three principals to understand the day schedule because I think many people think we have an influx of up to 700 students that want to drive their car in at one time and leave at one time, and that's not the case. School curriculum has changed and there is a coming and going during the day that I think Brandy needs to understand to help us work for any solutions. So, I would just bring that up.

Mr. Adamakos stated one thing that you should be aware of is the fact that cars come off the road and on the road at this stage in their lives often. They usually drive older cars, they break down, they get into accidents. So when I say 700, all

those stickers are not live throughout the entire year. We'll see cars in September and we won't see them again because they've been taken off the road. But the real big demand for time where they're all coming at the same time between 7:00 and 7:45 in the morning. We do have a staggered early release program, so you're not going to see as many cars at the end of the day. We start dismissing students at 12:10 - very, very few, maybe a couple dozen. Then there's another wave that gets dismissed 45 minutes later, and then there's another wave that get dismissed at the end of the day. So, the demands on traffic aren't as bad at the end of the day for the student part of it. It's the bus traffic and the parent pick-up traffic that comes in that part of the equation at the end of day. Thank you very much for allowing me to speak to you today.

Alderman DeVries stated and one final comment, not for Arthur but for Brandy. There's a fourth high school in the mix here that we need to include statistically and that's our vocational school. It sits across Weston from Memorial High School. I don't think they've been included and they should be, because they're doing some work at that school this year. There has been some redesigning of their parking lot. I don't know how that's going to affect some of my issues throughout the neighborhood, so we need to reach out to them and include them. Thank you.

Principal John Rist, Central High School, stated good morning. Thank you for hearing my testimony on this. I will respectfully and cooperatively work with the Committee. However, in my position as principal, I'm *in loco parentis* for the students, so my first job is to advocate for them. So, my opinions on this are fairly secure. Central doesn't have a parking lot for students. There's not enough spaces for the staff. Bus transportation is limited only to those Manchester students who live miles away. Students are going to bring their cars. Limiting parking around the building is just the opposite of what we should be seeking to do. If you put up Resident Only signs near the school, the students will park further away. They're going to bring their cars. Why would we push them further away from the safe haven of the school? We should make every attempt to bring them closer, just for safety concerns. Central does not have athletic fields out the back door. Students need their cars to participate in sports to get to and from the fields. There's no late buses for any students. Hooksett and Candia students need a car to return home if they participate in any sort of after school activity. Are we going to discriminate against our tuition towns? Resident Only parking signs impact the many businesses that are between Lowell and Webster Streets. Lawyers, doctors, dentists and accountants. Many of these businesses utilize public streets for their parking for their customers. These businesses are located in residential areas. Or are we only going after youngsters? I don't see that as quite fair. Are we going to place Resident Only signs around other schools that use public streets for parking for their staff members? Wilson and Hallsville come to mind, and other



neighborhood schools. Or is this only going to impact Central High School students? I know that a few students have acted inappropriately, throwing litter, playing their radios loudly in the neighborhoods. However, if you have three children and one misbehaves, do you punish all three? We want to be a good neighbor at Central, and with those residents who live near the school. But they must realize that they live near a school and there will be children on the streets. So that pretty much sums up my position.

Chairman Duval stated John, I'm not surprised with your comments this morning.

Mr. Rist stated I knew you wouldn't be.

Chairman Duval stated and duly stated, and I think it's important that you take that position. That's your job as Principal. But I think it's also important, as a result of this process, and perhaps we build this throughout the process, is open communication. I think neighbors have to understand exactly what the school, faculty and students, are faced with in regard to parking. I think that has been sorely lacking. I think often times from a lack of communication comes problems and I think problems can sometimes be avoided if we have open communication. I think it all starts really now. I'm not saying that there hasn't been an investment on our part or an effort by you or your staff to do that in the past, John. I'm not suggesting that, but I think we could probably all improve in that area. As Alderman DeVries stated, each school is faced with a different set of problems. And I'm well aware of what Central is faced with, having looked at it for just a short 18 months, although I've lived in the City my entire life. Everything you said has to be taken into consideration throughout the process. That's key. We have to have cooperation, and as I said, while the problem sort of rests with the City because it's in a City jurisdiction. The School District has nothing to do with or no control over parking on City streets. We then, alas, have to rely on input information from the School District and cooperation from the principals and all the way down to the students, the lowly freshmen, so to speak in this process or we're not going to get anywhere. So it's incumbent upon each of us and collectively to try to take a look at this and try to see what we come up with for some resolve. It may be relatively minor, but we have to do something. So...and I think, and John, you're aware, and just so we don't...if I can take sort of a little bit of an opposing viewpoint if there is one, on the City side, the situation relating to residents around Central High School in this instance, are very real, and I think you've heard for years what some of them are. And you're right. Sometimes there's over-reaction from residents who feel trampled on by students, and they do lump them together because they feel the brunt of it, and it's very real for them. They live it. And you're right. They chose to live there; they chose to purchase a house near a school. But they certainly didn't know what they were bargaining for when you have students blocking driveways, littering their property, giving

obscene gestures, and so on and so forth. And this goes on throughout the school year. And that's regrettable. So somehow throughout this process we have to address that as well. And maybe residents would come around to not demand restricted parking if we work cooperatively to try to drum out those that are the problem makers. And I think enforcement is key. And I know Sargent Bartlett is here this morning. He just came in. I know that members of the Police Department will have to become an integral part of this process, especially with regard to Central High School because parking is so darn limited. So to me there's no right or wrong position. The residents are right and you're right. You're both right. You both have legitimate concerns. It's up to us to try to work together to try to work together to try to hear both sides and to try to apply some kind of remedy, and that's basically what I'm here for, and hopefully we can get through this and have a better understanding and better respect for each other by the time it's all done. I certainly have heard what you said this morning and I hold it in high regard because I know you have a real sense of what's going on at your school. You're intimately involved with your students and I think that's admirable and I think your input is going to be invaluable. Alderman DeVries, do you have any questions for Mr. Rist?

Alderman DeVries stated not questions but comments because I have had, not my constituents, but individuals that attend Central and even on occasion parents who have students that are going to Memorial High School that with the trend of students getting pushed further and further away from the campus, they have genuine concerns for their safety, particularly their daughters that have to walk now further to get to the high school campus through neighborhoods. Oftentimes during the school year it's still rather dark in the morning when they're trying to make their way, and I think that's why I have to question in my mind if there isn't some solution that we have to find sooner rather than later that allows people who are displaced, don't have a near- high school campus parking spot, some safe haven where they can park and utilize transit to get to the school. I just don't know if that is such a difficult task, and it may not be utilized. There may be feedback that comes from the schools, but to me I still say that should be one of our first priorities, to find something near high school, whether it's a park and ride up off of Mammoth Road or by Derryfield Country Club...someplace, and connected to a transit system somehow. It doesn't cost a whole lot of money but gives a solution for Central. You just mentioned the Mall of New Hampshire. Maybe that's an intriguing phone conversation for me to have with managers at the mall. They might enjoy getting a whole lot of individuals that apparently have some money to spend at the end of the school day coming back to the Mall of New Hampshire. So maybe there are solutions we just haven't envisioned and we just should be looking for things that help today, as well as if there is any bigger picture at the end. My opinion...The study should go on. It doesn't mean that if there's a solution with you losing your parking at Ash Street School, feel free to

tell me if I'm wrong, but if there's some other solution that you see out there and you need help facilitating the rest of the services to make it happen, facilitating transit or some other funding. I guess we need to know as Aldermen. Maybe we can help make it happen.

Chairman Duval stated Ms. Stanley, I know that many of the school districts throughout New Hampshire, and I'm sure outside New Hampshire, have been faced with similar challenges with regard to parking. I know school districts, high schools throughout New Hampshire, have made changes in recent years that has dramatically changed the way they allow or disallow parking for high school students on school grounds or near schools. I know you've been trying to collect some data and you'll continue to do that throughout the process, but I think that information is going to be invaluable to us as well. Not every school has the same conditions that surround it but I know that some of the stuff may apply to what we're faced with here in Manchester at the three high schools. Any comments that you have to make before we adjourn this morning?

Ms. Stanley stated no, the only thing I'd say really is that I'm looking forward to working with everybody on the process because I think that if we take the time and do it right, we can actually come up with something that will be better than what we have now. So, I'm looking forward to being able to do that.

Chairman Duval stated at this point I'd like to hear from Mr. Puglisis, who is the assistant principal at West.

Assistant Principal Puglisi, West High School, stated I didn't realize that I'd be speaking and I do not have any data for you, but...

Chairman Duval stated that's not important at this time. Just if there was any sort of comments that you wanted to give this morning before we adjourn, we'd certainly invite you that opportunity. I went to West High School. I have to be honest with you. I kind of lean in that direction.

Principal Puglisi stated I want you to understand that we're happy to cooperate with the Committee. At West there is no student parking, although we utilize, or the students utilize the Pit. That is a City lot. It is not designated for students only. So they all park on the streets. The students are fighting for spots with residents, and in the area of West High School we have multi-families. So we're not dealing with a single-family dwelling with one or two cars. We have multiple cars, so parking is definitely an issue in the area of West High School. I've had numerous conversations with parents, some of them very similar to Mr. Adamakos where, 'My daughter's been driving around for ten minutes; I don't think she should be penalized for being tardy to school.' And we try to cooperate. In

regards to the area and the residents and the kids hanging out, the assistant principals are out before and after school. We try to break up any of the students congregating in the area, leaving litter. We're trying to work with the residents in the area and be, as Mr. Rist said, good neighbors.

Alderman DeVries stated I'm all set with West High School. Thank you, Mr. Puglisi. I'd love to hear maybe from the enforcement side, just to see where they're at...staffing, as far as maybe controlling some of the parking. Around Memorial High School we have a lot of areas that have been posted for No Parking During School Hours, and if there's any updates you can give us on who's available, what kind of support we might have for enforcing the areas that have been posted in prior years. I'd enjoy hearing that. I know staffing has been an issue so whoever wants to come up and update us on staffing and what we can expect as school opens, since that's right around the corner.

Sargent Bartlett stated as far as the enforcement side goes, this is my third school year in the Traffic Division and at the beginning of the school year, parking is always an issue, not only at the high school level but at the elementary school level as well. Drop off and pick up are problematic at all the schools in the City. What we've done in the Traffic Division at the Police Department is at the beginning of the school year, we try to get out there in as much mass as possible to sort of set the tone at the schools, because if you just don't do anything, parents are going to get complacent at drop off and pick up. I work a lot more with the elementary schools. I've been with Mr. Adamakos; and I've been over at West School; I've been at Central. If we don't get out there and sort of set the tone at the beginning of the school year, then any ground that we gain the first couple of weeks of school we're going to lose that, and we don't want to do that. So at the beginning of the school year we sort of get out there en masse. We try to enforce the parking issues as much as possible. And we not only enforce No Parking zones but we also enforce five feet from a driveway, twenty feet from a corner, just so these students, when they are finding places to park, and we realize that it's difficult, that they're safe. You don't want someone, their car, hanging out of an intersection. That's problematic for accidents, and we don't want to have that. As far as the elementary schools go, we sort of want to set the tone with the parents that drop off and pick up needs to be conducted in a certain manner and at certain places. We don't want them blocking the bus lanes, like I've seen at Northwest Elementary School and Webster School. We don't want them double, triple parking at the dead end of Elm Street to drop off students. And I've worked with the principals of those schools and have made headway, but at the beginning of the year you always have a new influx of parents, a new influx of student drivers. It's almost like the retraining that you have to do when it comes to the enforcement side. So the beginning of the school year this year, we'll be out en masse at all of the schools. We'd like to cover those schools pretty heavily for the good first

couple of weeks of the school year, like I said, to sort of set that tone. I'm looking forward to working with Brandy. I'm very happy that this Committee is being formed to sort of address this problem and try and get something permanently set in place so it doesn't continue to be an ongoing problem for the principals and the students and the residents. I just look to that as very progressive, and as I said, my third year, I'm very happy that this is happening.

Alderman DeVries asked can you tell me, in some of the areas where it is posted No Parking During School Hours, does the Police Department have any kind of a courtesy notice that they leave on cars, especially around this time, the beginning of the school year, that reminds students that they are in this spot that they chose, parked in an area that would, another visit, get them a ticket? So do you do any kind of advance education? Because they're not at their car during the day. Would that be helpful?

Sargent Bartlett responded I'm not really sure. I mean, if somebody parked in front of a sign that says No Parking During School Hours, I mean, from the enforcement side, you're going to get those folks that maybe live at that address say, 'Well, it's pretty cut and dried. They're right there. Why didn't you issue them a ticket?' And then you're going to get the other side of the spectrum as well. 'This is the first time I've done it so shouldn't I get a warning?'

Alderman DeVries stated I would think we might want to look at that and have conversation about that. The reason being, at least around Memorial High School, entire streets are not posted for No Parking During School Hours because not every property owner on a street agrees that they want to lose the privilege to parking during the school day. So, the signage can be confusing. And I think it's confusing for everybody, not just the students that may choose to try to park on some of these streets. So, I'm thinking if we did something before the ticket, Arthur might get a few less phone calls from angry parents, that they now have to pay a \$50 ticket, I think it is.

Sargent Bartlett stated I can tell you, Alderman, that if the signage is confusing, I think the officers tend not to ticket. They would rather ere on the side of caution. If the signage isn't there, to give the ticket if there's no sign...If someone is parked on a City street and it's not posted No Parking During School Hours, we probably would rather not give the ticket.

Alderman DeVries stated the one caveat to that is when I am contacted as an Alderman, frequently the reason individuals contact me is when they start to have students parking on both sides of the street. Not being four lanes wide in width, we have now created a congestion issue and an emergency vehicle situation similar to what we see on South Porter, but it's there the entire day. So they're

worried about the turning radius right at the intersections because the kids get right up as close as they can to an intersection. Not ticketing may not be the solution either, but I'm wondering if we can find common ground here until we have some other solutions in place. And maybe try to educate the new student body.

Chairman Duval stated maybe Ms. Stanley and Sargent Bartlett can chat about that. Maybe there's an opportunity for some sort of amnesty for the first week or something like that. I'm not sure, but you could work on something and come back.

Sargent Bartlett asked do you have some specific areas in mind? If we have some sort of parameters as to what you're...

Alderman DeVries stated we can talk off camera. It's not that I'm holding anything back. It's just that we don't need to take up the time right here. And the main thing is that parents should know that there are rules and regulations for the opening of school, not just for the students coming and driving a car, but also for themselves if they're driving and picking up. There are areas that are posted, not blocking driveways, all of these issues that you'll be out there in force maybe reminding them but can result in future driving infractions if they continue to abuse.

Chairman Duval stated Sargent Bartlett, thanks for being here. Any final comments before we adjourn? Principal Rist, Principal Adamakos, you're satisfied for this morning? Just before you leave, we're going to set a meeting for approximately one month. Do we have a date, Clerk?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson stated we have opening September 24<sup>th</sup> or September 25<sup>th</sup>, Monday or Tuesday the last week of September.

Alderman DeVries asked are we doing mornings or afternoons?

Deputy City Clerk Johnson responded morning was what he was suggesting.

Alderman DeVries stated I can't guarantee that I can make it, but you can schedule it.

Chairman Duval asked is either day better, Monday or Tuesday, do you know, in general, for meetings in Concord?

Alderman DeVries responded it varies.

Chairman Duval stated Clerk, we obviously will want at least one other Alderman present at the meeting, so if you could just coordinate with Alderman DeVries and we'll get an email out to everyone. Principal Rist, is there a day that's better for you, or a designee from Central? Mondays or Tuesdays, are they sort of more favorable, less favorable?

Principal Rist responded it's a toss up.

Chairman Duval stated all right, we'll do our best to try to accommodate your schedules at the schools so we make sure that we have your participation or a designee from the school.

Alderman DeVries asked what time of day can they get here?

Chairman Duval asked does morning work for you? So, I'm thinking Monday is probably better according to Principal Adamakos. So we'll continue to try to see if we can accommodate with the time of the meetings, but we'll look to meet that last week of September and the Clerk will communicate with you.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman DeVries, duly seconded by Chairman Duval, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee